After College, What?

THE yearly percentage of young college graduates seeking an enlargement of their activities who turn to soil culture as a new business for their energy and efficiency is surprisingly on the increase, and as the old order of agriculturist is so sharply differentiated from the new, it is not unnatural that this independent and profitable vocation should attract so many energetic and ambitious ones of the younger generation. Possibly a frank presentation of facts as to industrial conditions relating to commercial, manufacturing and professional business may show just why the land question becomes one of such special interest and profit.

Average Income Small And Many Failures

The average income of lawyers in the city of New York is $600, and that of the medical profession is about the same. The average per cent. of failures, as far as loss of capital invested is concerned, in mercantile lines has been estimated to be 90 per cent., while that in manufacturing operations is estimated at about 20 per cent. The fact that 80 per cent. of all men living at the age of 45 are prosperous may encourage the ambitious to hope that they may be among the chosen ones; possibly their chances are good, but in figuring chances it may be well to ponder a few statistics gathered by the medical department of the University of Vermont, which states that of the men living at the age of 45 50 per cent. live to be 65, at which age only 3 per cent. are independent or even in part self-sustaining—that is, ninety-seven out of every 100 at the age of 65 are dependent upon relatives, friends, the town or some charitable institution for part or all of their daily sustenance.

These statistics are quoted to show how more and more difficult it has become to succeed in the usual channels which are open to young men after college; and it should also be borne in mind that to enter any of the above mentioned fields of activity requires capital, or where a young man enters the manufacturing field with the intention of becoming a superintendent, for instance, pull is frequently required to get the opportunity to work up from the bottom within a reasonable length of time. Now a young doctor's capital is represented by the years spent in the medical schools, his equipment and his support during the time he must wait for patients. The same is true of lawyers, architects, clergymen, artists and the various other professions.

If these expenses, which in most cases cover four or five years, were figured up they would average $5,000 or more. In contrast to this if a business were open to thousands of young men all over the country whereby with the same sum of money—$5,000—they might not only be independent from the start, but have a house of their own with the privilege of working in the open air and sunshine, instead of being tied to a desk, at the same time running but small chance of losing their capital or be subjected to the sordidness of poverty, surely for the discriminating ones it would at least be well worth considering!

Agriculture Offers Safer Opportunities

Too many young college graduates have failed to recognize that the many different forms of agriculture offer just such an opportunity. Writing on this point Prof. F. W. Card of the Rhole Island Agricultural College says: "For the man with small capital, who wishes to manage it himself, agriculture offers a most promising field. He may begin small and add to his investment as rapidly as his capital will permit." Then he quotes the followng from an interview with the Hon. Charles A. Garfield, a Michigan banker, well-known in agricultural as well as banking lines: "My personal view with regard to comparative successes and failures in the various vocations of life is that there are fewer failures in connection with soil culture than in almost any other line of business activity. I think the promises today for the young man who has some taste for agriculture are better in that realm than in any other.

"In our own State I am impressed with the strong advantages of agriculture over mercantile or manufacturing enterprises. In the various fields of agriculture there is not the necessity for increased capitalization to cope with modern factors which are involved. For instance in glass farming, a man can start out with a little greenhouse, and can gradually grow, if he puts the right ability into the enterprise, into a tremendous establishment in the course of a quarter of a century. The same way in out-of-door marketing and gardening. I know men who started with five acres of land, and by manuring heavily with brains, have, within twelve or fifteen years, developed a great agricultural enterprise. I think along the various lines of agriculture the opportunities have increased with the years, while in many other avenues of activity it seems to me the reverse is true.

"With the advent of the great department stores the man of small means does not know where to dip in, even if he has a taste for trade and the same is true of manufacturing enterprises. But I know of so many successful men who have started in a small way, with only a small branch of agriculture or horticulture, and made a success of it, that I feel quite safe in advising young men to enter this kind of career, providing first and always they have a natural taste for dealing with the soil. Young men have made a pronounced success within my range of vision in growing rhubarb or cauliflower or celery, or feeding lambs, or raising poultry, or growing roses or violets, and I am inclined more and more to think there is no limit to endeavor along these lines."

Actual Income to Be Made From the Land

But to suggest here the unspoken thought of the modern young man, "That is encouraging, to be sure; but what sort of an income can be made from the land?" Well, in dollars and cents, a larger return on the capital invested can be made from soil culture than from any other business operation except gambling. A list was secured by Prof. Card of typical representative agriculturists engaged in different lines of work and located in various parts of the United States, and questions were sent them asking for a plain business statement regarding the management of and the returns from their farms. Answers and figures were obtained from forty-seven of them, and among these some of the land was managed by firms, including, brothers, or father and son, or friends, &c., which, being taken into consideration, made fifty-six persons share in the returns which these farms yielded. The net result showed the average salary received by each of the fifty-six persons, after deducting all running expenses, 5 per cent. interest on the capital invested, 5 per cent. for depreciation and insurance on buildings and 10 per cent. for depreciation on teams and tools, was $1,800.40. These were, of course, picked farmers and well known in their several communities, so the returns may be considered perhaps above the average, but they are by no means exceptional.

If the young college graduate were only able to disillusion himself of the idea that successful farms are run by ignorant, brainless, ne'er-do-wells, who could succeed in no other possible vocation, perhaps the chief hindrance to reaching a successful goal in agriculture would be eliminated. For just the reverse is true. To be able to make from $1,200 to $6,000 or $8,000 net from the land requires, if anything, more brains and ability than to make the same amount at a desk in town. To illustrate this point more fully: take a man engaged in the manufacture and sale of woolen blankets.

It is necessary he should know the different kinds of wool from beginning to end; he must be thoroughly familiar with all sorts of dyestuffs; the entire process of weaving and the cost of raw material, labor and the selling of the same must all be known to him. But in contrast here are some of the fundamental details of which the ambitious agriculturist must have a generous supply of knowledge: he must know the full value of land, the different compositions of soils and chemical needs of the same; the requirements of the various kinds of crops and the chemical fertilizers best suited to each one; he must understand the breeding, selection and care of all kinds of live stock, including the scientific balancing of rations, as well as the market value of millfeeds and grains; he must be able to take advantage of market conditions in the purchase of these at all times; he must know how to dispose of his goods to the utmost advantage; he must understand all sorts of farm machinery and gasoline engines and be able to do odd jobs in carpentry; he must be familiar with bookkeeping, and finally be ever ready to overcome and meet the many obstacles which are continually cropping up.

Now, whereas the manufacturer of blankets must know everything pertaining to blankets very thoroughly, the manufacturer of farm products, on the other hand, must know a great deal about a dozen or more entirely different subjects. To illustrate this even more forcibly: a man keeps a herd of cattle and sells cream, his bull dies and it becomes necessary he should buy another whereupon two are offered him, one for $75, the other for $200. They are both "likely" beasts, but the difference in price is considerable and at this particular time our friend cannot afford to spend more than is absolutely essential, so he decides to buy the $75 one, without a pedigree to be sure, but supposedly of good stock. Four years from date the calves from the new bull are beginning to replace their dams and to his amazement he finds on testing their milk that instead of yielding 4.5 per cent. butter fat, it only yields 3.5 per cent. although the animals are receiving the best food and care! Thus his error in judging the value of those two bulls, he finds, will cost him hundreds of dollars.

Let no one, then, receive the impression that the business of agriculture is designed for those of small ability, or is fit only for the uneducated! Far from it, for the more education a man has the better are his chances of success. For instance, the attention of the writer was recently called to the very remarkable success of a young college graduate in raising swine. After college his father allowed him two years abroad and then informed him he thought it was time he should start in to make a living for himself, and presented the young fellow with a few thousand dollars as a working basis. The young man went out to Wyoming, bought a small ranch, and after looking over the situation very carefully started to breed swine. For four years he lived entirely alone, but during that time he made enough money to return to the city of his birth, purchase a considerable interest in a then newly organized trust company and became its treasurer, and is now a prosperous and successful banker.

Life in the Open Was Not Meant for All!

On the other hand life in the open was never intended for the timid, nor for the boulevardier, for neither could ever hope to succeed in agriculture; for one would wither under the first bit of ill luck and the other would sell out before the end of the first winter. But the man who understands and responds to the charm of outdoor life, enjoys roughing it occasionally, is fond of animals and is strong and courageous, to him indeed Dame Nature will prove absorbing and strengthening. If such a man takes pains to study his subject carefully and scientifically and will consult his State agricultural college when in doubt, or possibly even take the short summer course offered by that same college, he may undertake the business of agriculture with the full confidence that in the end his pound will gain ten pounds.

After becoming familiar with the different branches of land culture the enthusiast should decide definitely upon the one which most appeals to him, for the choice is a large one and includes fruit growing, dairying, sheep raising, poultry, truck gardening, greenhouse and outdoor flowers, bee keeping, &c., or, more possibly, a combination of two or more things which dovetail in together, such as fruit and poultry, or bees and flowers, or dairying and swine raising. On the kind of business to be developed, of course, will depend entirely the amount of land needed and the particular location of that land. But, above all, never lose sight of the fact that the far-sighted man, blessed with his full share of common sense, will never go to the length of buying land until he has lived on it for at least a year and so has had full opportunity to test it and himself as well.

A Great College Year

Continued from Preceding Page.

mary function of the college instructor.

"(b) The college may not impose any limitation upon the teacher's freedom in the exposition of his own subject in the classroom or in addresses and publications outside the college, except in so far as the general necessity of adapting all instruction to the needs of immature students, or specific stipulations in advance, fully understood and accepted by both parties, limit the scope and character of instruction. If specific stipulations are made they should be regarded as necessary concessions to weaknesses in the existing situation and be dispensed with as soon as circumstances will permit.

"(c) No teacher may claim as his right the privilege of discussing in his classroom controversal topics outside of his own field of study. The privilege is often exercised, but the support of the college may not be expected in cases where friction arises from the practice.

"(d) The college must recognize the teacher's right, in speaking or writing outside of the college upon subjects beyond the scope of his own field of study, to precisely the same freedom and the same responsibility as attach to all other persons, subject only to the necessity of protecting the good name and the welfare of the college against serious injury. The teacher in all speaking and writing of this character should be scrupulous in making it clear that his institution has no responsibility for the views expressed by him."

The endeavor for a lifting of the standards for entering the professions of the law and of medicine still continue. The standards for entering another of the three historic professions, the ministry, have always been of the highest. The need of this lifting is general and urgent. In certain commonwealths a certificate of good moral character is the chief or only prerequisite for admission to the bar. The recommendation of the American Bar Association that two years of liberal study shall be required before one can become an applicant for admission to the bar is most quickening. This recommendation will become a rule in most States in the course of a decade. The conditions for admission to the medical profession have long been far in advance of the prerequisites for admission to the bar.

Among the many inferences which this survey of a great college year quickens are three of peculiarly important merit. (1) The interest of the people in the higher education is still increasing. Each passing year serves to give wider breadth and deeper depth. (2) The unity of the world is also made more manifest. The oneness of all education as found in all parts is made more real, as well as more evident. Educators, too, in all States and nations, are becoming more closely joined in service and in personality. (3) The spirit of experimentation is becoming yet more vigorous. This experimentation is of many kinds, belonging to content, methods and means. Such a spirit is of the utmost hopefulness. Education is safe just so long as it is regarded as unsafe and incomplete. When education has come to be a science in which no further discoveries are to be made, or an art in which there is no room for improvement, it has reached the point of gravest peril.

Chaos or Cosmos?

CHAOS OR COSMOS? By Edgar L. Heermance. E. P. Dutton & Co.

THE subject of this volume is nothing less than the universe, and, as might be expected, the comprehensiveness of the theme finds its parallel in the sketchiness and inadequacy of the author's method. It is Mr. Heermance's object to examine the universe minutely, to ascertain its general nature, to discover whether it is unified or the work of blind and chaotic forces, and to determine its relation to mankind as well as the place that man has in it. All this is a highly laudable purpose, but one suspects that it is a trifle too ambitious for the confines of a single volume, since the author occasionally appears to be merely airing his prejudices without taking the time to back them up by convincing argument. For example, he agrees with the fantastic if apparently scientific view of Alfred Russel Wallace that the earth alone of all the hundreds of millions of possible planets is inhabited; but he dismisses the carefully corroborated testimony of Percival Lowell as to the habitability of Mars by declaring, with a gesture of disapproval, "Able astronomers let their imaginations run riot, and proved anything they wished to prove."

Without insinuating that this alleged fault of the scientists has been contagious in Mr. Heermance's case, one may remark that such unsubstantial statements lack value and tend to make one suspicious of the book as a whole. The author indeed seems to write largely from a religious rather than from a scientific point of view, and appears to employ science as a sort of prop for his entirely legitimate if inadequately established religious convictions. This is not to imply, however, that his ideas are lacking in interest or discernment, or that they will not appeal to many. The following lines, which the author writes by way of summary, are typical of his general position: "We find that the Christian attitude toward the Universe is essential to modern civilization. Social progress is an achievement rather than an evolution. Through a slow and painful struggle, the race is learning to adjust itself to its Environment. . . . The true function of the individual is found in his position as an independent and cooperating unit. He is a partner in a democratic cosmic enterprise. And the objective of the age long cooperation between Man and God is the developing of human personalities. Promise of advance along these lines is seen in the lengthening of human life, the spread of democracy and the social solidarity introduced by the Industrial era."

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"Timothy's Quest," that permanent classic for children which, with "The Birds' Christmas Carol," has made Kate Douglas Wiggin a household name throughout the country, is to be adapted to the movies this summer. Mrs. Wiggin has a hand in the production, and the play is to be screened near her summer home in Maine.

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Among books to be published this month by the Macmillan Company are Warwick Deeping's new novel, "The House of Adventure"; Dr. Grenfell's "Labrador," in a new edition, with new material; "Causes and Cures for Social Unrest," by Ross L. Finney; "Reconstruction in France," by William Macdonald; "The Catholic Spirit in Modern English Literature," by George N. Shuster.